

THE WILSON BULLETIN

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EDITORIAL

WE BRING to the attention of our readers the following requests for co-operation. There has been an aberrant movement during recent months of the Canada Jay. Readers who have made any observations may assist in the preparation of the report by writing of the details to Dr. Harrison F. Lewis, National Parks of Canada, Ottawa, Canada. Mr. A. L. Pickens (Zoology Building, University of California, Berkeley, Calif.) desires correspondence with all who may furnish observations on the kinds and colors of flowers visited by birds—especially hummingbirds. If the observer is not certain of the correct name of the flower a pressed specimen will be appreciated by Mr. Pickens.

THE NOTABLE "BIRD CONTEST" conducted by *Successful Farming* closed on January 1, although the awards may not be made known for several months. This magazine has a circulation of 1,150,000, and about 25,000 answers were received in this bird contest. The goal of the contest was to correctly identify eighty species of birds from their portraits which had been printed in color in the magazine.

The contest was primarily an educational project, at least as nearly as one could conceive in a commercial organization. Prizes were offered, of course; but even in the university, grades are offered as a stimulus to effort. The profit which the magazine receives in increased circulation seems negligible; the good will created by keeping the readers interested and engaged in wholesome and profitable activities seems to be the end sought.

The more people become acquainted with and interested in birds, flowers, trees, and animal life, the greater will be the general satisfaction in rural life, and the greater will be the willingness to "remain on the farm". Appreciation of nature will be one of the greatest factors in making rural life attractive. We applaud *Successful Farming's* bird contest because it advertises and popularizes the study of birds, which is our own chief interest and hobby; but we see in it much wider implications of a social and economic nature, which are likely to bring results in future generations.

THE DES MOINES MEETING was successful beyond our expectations. Every thing ran along with precision and co-ordination. The program was one of the biggest, in number of titles, we have ever had. The attendance was by far the largest we have ever had, exceeding by nearly a hundred our 1926 meeting at Chicago. The program occupied every available minute of time, giving less opportunity for visiting than we would have preferred; nevertheless, the hotels, the banquet, and the reception made up this deficit to a great extent.

A great deal of the success of the meeting must be attributed to the enthusiasm and efficiency of the Des Moines people. There is always some danger in mentioning names, lest the stranger may make some mistake of omission; yet we think the work of Mrs. J. E. Stewart and Mr. A. J. Palas deserves public citation. Perhaps our high record of attendance is due to the ladies who gave up the program to remain at the registration desk. The hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Frankel was much appreciated by the guests.

It may be of interest to many of our members to examine the following tabulated figures concerning our recent meetings:

	Kansas City 1925	Chicago 1926	Nashville 1927	Ann Arbor 1928	D Moines 1929
Local Attendance	12	37	32	31	106
Out-of-Town Attendance	49	75	43	75	96
Total Attendance	61	112	75	106	202
Banquet Attendance	37	61	46	50	77
Titles on Program.....	21	23	34	24	36
Honorary Members	4	4	4	4	9
Sustaining Members ....	....	73	68	64	66
Active Members .....	....	216	244	248	245
Associate Members .....	....	327	347	383	397
Total Membership .....	....	620	663	702	717
Total Receipts	\$1771	\$1753	\$1638	\$1981	\$2167

These figures are taken from the files of the BULLETIN, and show a healthy increase in nearly every particular.

Looking, now, into the future, we find that the next three meetings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science are to be held in the middlewest, as follows:

1930. Cleveland, Ohio, Monday, December 29 to Saturday, January 3.

1931. New Orleans, La., Monday, December 28 to Saturday, January 2.

1932. Chicago, Monday, December 26 to Saturday, December 31.*

Meetings beyond these dates, so far as they have been determined, are to be in the east. It may probably be assumed that the W. O. C. will hold its next three meetings according to the same schedule given above. It seems to be our experience in these meetings that the first of the week is the proper time for the W. O. C. meeting. By the end of the week people are tired and go home. Our dinner should be placed on Monday night to avoid conflict with the Zoologists' Dinner, which is usually placed on Tuesday night.

*There has since been some discussion of the proposal to hold this Chicago meeting of the American Association during the summer of 1933, in connection with the World's Fair.

SCIENCE for February 14, 1930, contains a communication from Philip Hadley, of the University of Michigan, claiming that wild Passenger Pigeons have been seen in Michigan during 1929, and also in Indiana, by three persons. None of the observers professes to be a student of birds, but all claim to be acquainted with the Passenger Pigeon. Doubtless, *Science* does not intend, by publication, to lend its support to belief in this report. The chances of mistaking a Mourning Dove for the Passenger Pigeon are so great, that such will be the verdict of most readers of this article.

FR. HAVERSCHMIDT, 50 Kromme Nieuwe Graecht, Utrecht, Holland, offers a clean copy of Bent's "Petrels and Pelicans and their Allies" (U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 121) for \$8 postpaid.

TEACHERS who are contemplating the taking of a class of students by automobile into the Yellowstone National Park should be warned that the Government in 1929 added an extra fee of one dollar for each car of such a party. If we understand it correctly this extra tax was added in order to protect the Yellow Bus business. The extra dollar is not charged to family cars, but only to educational parties, such as Dr. Jones has been taking through the west for many years. Without warning Dr. Jones was confronted at the Park Entrance with this novel business scheme. The amount of money involved was trifling, but the principle was exasperating.

Much is being said in these days about the educational aims and purposes of the National Parks. Yet here we find an ugly discrimination against a purely educational enterprise, and for the protection of a commercial one. Even if the reason here assumed for the levying of the extra fee is incorrect, the fact still remains that the fee was charged; and it is difficult to harmonize this with the avowed educational objectives of the Yellowstone Park. There may be a considerable doubt whether the addition of a dollar to the fee will keep out the imposters, anyway. It is to be hoped that this unjust and discriminating regulation will be removed before another season comes.

WITH THIS ISSUE we wish to introduce one new officer. While Professor Stack was promoted from the treasurership to the presidency, he is well known to the membership by reason of his three terms of office. The vacancy in the treasurer's office was filled by the election of Walter M. Rosene, of Ogden, Iowa. Mr. Rosene is the president of the City State Bank of Ogden, and is accustomed to the handling of money and accounts. He is, besides, an ardent student of birds, and a bird photographer of no mean skill. While he is enthusiastic and untiring in his pursuit of bird lore, he is also as conservative in naming a strange bird as he is in distributing silver dollars.